



**SANTA BARBARA
DOWNTOWN
ORGANIZATION**

**SANTA BARBARA
CITY COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING DEC. 18, 2008**

The Downtown Organization, Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce, SBV&CB, and the GSBR&LA met recently to discuss our roles in addressing the problems we are currently facing in certain geographic areas of Santa Barbara.

Consensus was that it's not just businesses, but cultural venues, local citizens and hoteliers that have a stake in making residents and visitors feel safe and secure, as well as the City itself who relies on sales tax, TOT and parking revenues.

We agreed on the importance of getting help for those that want help and getting the criminal element out. We noted that "cutting off the flow of money is critical to the cause" and we can no longer continue to reward bad behavior with cash handouts that enable alcoholism and substance abuse, which research clearly shows it does.

Consensus was that our organizations would actively participate in a city administered anti-panhandling/public education/alternative giving campaign. We feel the Chamber is best suited to act as the steering organization for the campaign. Individual businesses would decide whether or not they want to participate and at what level.

With regard to the campaign:

Consensus was that while some businesses might put a collection box in their place of business, it was far better to have collection points on the street where the actual "giving" occurs.

Consensus was that we should research other communities who have participated in such campaigns to see if they were successful (and why), or, if not (why not).

Consensus was that the name "Santa Barbara Cares" could be an appropriate theme for the campaign.

With regard to enforcement:

Consensus was that police presence was more important than response or enforcement.

Consensus was that an ordinance which designates an enforcement zone and restricts the use of public property for private gain (panhandling) within that zone could be very useful as long as it upholds 1st amendment rights and is fully enforceable.

The Downtown Organization has authorized funding to match city funds for a pilot program that will allow for a retired officer to serve as a part-time foot/bike patrol officer along the downtown State Street corridor.

The Downtown Organization wishes to acknowledge and thank the City of Santa Barbara Staff and City Council Subcommittee Members for their important roles in bringing these issues to the table and allowing for an open forum of ideas for solutions. We look forward to collaborating with the City and the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce, SBV&CB, and the GSBR&LA in helping to implement these important solutions.

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